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Tuesday, August 21, 2012

THE MORNING NEWS

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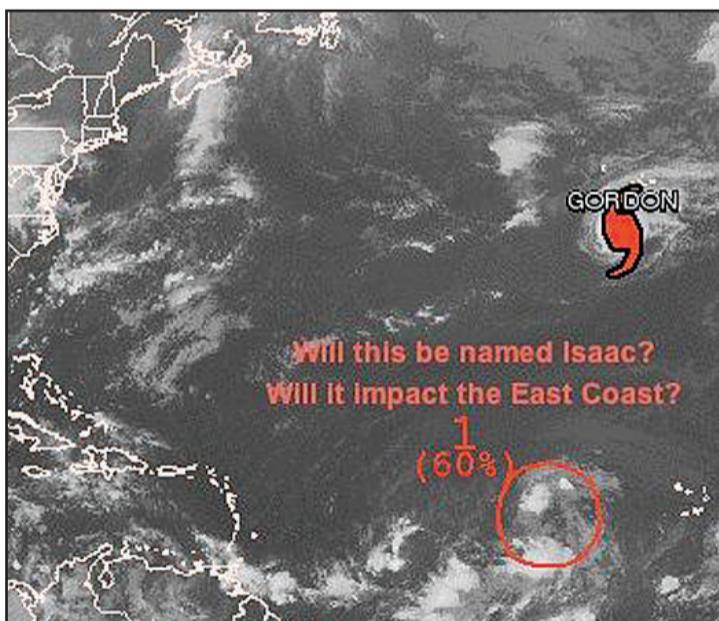
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Tropical Storm Isaac likely by Wednesday



There is an 80 percent chance Tropical Storm Isaac will have formed near the Lesser Antilles in the eastern Caribbean Sea by Wednesday morning, according to the National Hurricane Center.

It's still too early to predict the storm's track, but weather-watching enthusiasts are discussing the possibility that it could make a turn toward the north and impact the East Coast.

It's also possible it could move toward the Gulf of Me-

xico states or the Yucatan Peninsula, or that it could disintegrate thanks to dry air and high wind shear, of course.

The hurricane center's forecast says that while the storm has become better defined over the past few hours, it has "limited" shower and thunderstorm activity. Conditions are nevertheless conducive to a tropical depression forming over the next day or so, according to the forecast.

Aruba's proud baseballers return as World Sub Champions



On Saturday the Aruban community was ecstatic as they watched our Junior League baseballers play the final World Series match in Taylor, Michigan against the US team. Our baseballers represented the entire Latin America in this World Series tournament as they were the winning team a few weeks ago in Costa Rica.

The popularity of the Aruban team grew with every game they played. Then, on Friday they triumphed over the Mexican team and became the champions of the "International Pool" of the World Series. These young people worked real hard to reach the top in their 13 to 14 year category.

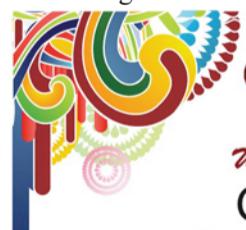
On Saturday, a large number of Aruban fans followed the final game. Many were

watching right there in Michigan while others followed the game here at home via ESPN and various radio channels.

Aruba earned the title of Sub Champion with a score of 12-10. Organizers of this tour-

nament, which was held for the 32nd consecutive year, claimed that this... "one of the most emotionally charged games in the history of the World Series."

Continued on page 3



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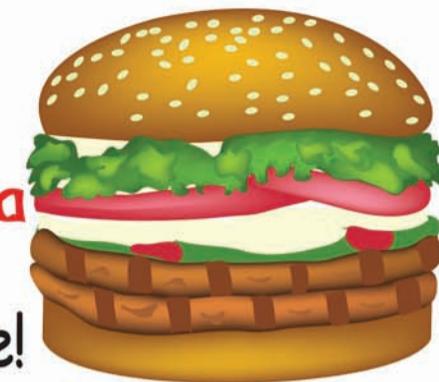
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Six new 'teachers' for Tra'i Merdia program

Government has simplified process for getting welfare



Last week, Minister of Education, Arthur Dowers, welcomed six new ladies into the Tra'i Merdia (After school hours) program under the auspices of the Traimerdia Bureau. These young ladies were presented on the first day of this new 2012-2013 school year at the office of the Traimerdia Bureau.

The Minister challenged the six new 'teachers' to use the knowledge and experience of their colleagues, and to also share their knowledge and experience in a team effort, which he said would benefit the chil-

dren and their development.

According to the government, the role of the Traimerdia team is very important with respect to the guidance and formation of the children who attend the program at the various centers. An extra push is given children which parents also expect so that their children would eventually grow up to be productive citizens with bright futures.

The children in the Tra'i Merdia Program spend the greatest part of their time with these 'teachers.' And, they depend on them for their intellec-

tual, social, technical, and emotional development, as well as for guidance in learning values and norms.

The Traimerdia Bureau provides care after school for children at various centers around the island. The program is well structured to promote the integral development of our children. The program includes guidance, stimulation of different aspects of development of the child. Homework guidance is also an important part of the program for each child.

During a recent press conference the government made reference to the process for obtaining welfare. They informed that previously it was necessary to file a formal petition. At the Department of Social Affairs, one person was responsible for making the decision as to whether or not someone would be eligible for the welfare check. In the event someone did not qualify, per that one person's decision, the petitioner had to summons the services of the LAR immediately to appeal the decision.

This was the only way that a petitioner could have tried for a second time to be eligible for welfare.

The government has decided to change that system. They have now installed a special internal commission that would revise all petitions for welfare and then make a decision. It is no longer one solitary person making that decision, but three or four persons who work in the welfare area as well as in the area together with the director of the Department.

This, according to the government will create better facilities for our people and would avoid having to take such a long route to get the needed help.

Continued on page 5

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Aruba's proud baseballers return ...

Continued from page 1



Aruba's Minister of Sports was on hand at the airport to welcome the team back from the US. The Minister remarked in his words of congratulations...."congratulations to our Latin American Champion team, International Champion of the World

Series and Sub Champion of the World Series. Congratulations to your coaches, parents and families who made every effort to support you. Masha pabien Aruba."

Aruba has reason to celebrate! We are very proud of our athletes and gladly re-

ceived them back to Aruba. According to the Minister,... "Team Aruba, you have a fantastic future ahead of you. Continue motivated and enthusiastic, use your talents for good and continue working hard, your future in athletics looks excellent."

Aruba YMCA reopens "Tra'i Merdia," Y's Care and Y's Teen!



At the start of a new school year, many parents are on the look-out for adequate locations where they can leave their children after regular school hours. Aruba's YMCA has demonstrated their skill in this area over the past years and has a number of vacancies for children interested in their after school programs.

It is a well known fact that the Dakota YMCA and the San Nicolas YMCA have excellent "Tra'i Merdia" programs for children between the ages of 4

to 12 years. The Y's Care program offers "homework guidance," and recreational and athletic activities for children. During the program there is a stipulated time for working on homework after which the children can engage in the different activities offered by the YMCA.

Along with the Tra'i Merdia program, the YMCA also has a so-called Y's Teen program.

Continued on page 5

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There is still time to sign up for ex-ALM Employees reunion on August 25th!

ORANJESTAD -- The commission in charge of the ex-ALM employees reunion this coming Saturday, August 25th wishes to send out an invite to all ex-employees of ALM who have not yet signed up to be present at the reunion.

Anyone who has

worked at the ALM airline company can sign up and meet up with ex-colleagues and catch up with the good old times.

The reunion will take place on Saturday, August 25th at the Palm Island.

For more information do not hesitate to contact

one of the following committee members: Glenda Hek @ 7433344/Patricia Tromp @ 7455038/Vilma Thysen-Kock 5930594/Astrid Simon @ 7455038 or Carina Tromp-van den Poel @ 5946869, before Wednesday, August 22nd.

Arjan Erkel, former kidnapped Dutchman, to lecture in Aruba

Candidate for the September 12th election to the Second House of Chamber (Tweede Kamer), and member of the CDA party, will be lecturing here on Aruba on Friday, August 24th at the Dr. Edward Cheung Center for Innovation. The 42 year old Erkel, who with no intention of ever becoming world famous as an executive with the "Mediconan Sin Frontera" group, was kidnapped in the Russian Republic of Dagestan. He was held captive for 607 days before regaining his freedom.

During his lecture in Aruba, Erkel will tell the story of what happened to him, because, as he stated.... "it was from there that I received my enormous aspiration to defend democracy. I also want to explain why I choose to join CDA and not some populist party. I experienced where extremism can lead." This is how the cultural anthropologist, Arjan Erkel, expressed himself.

He said that he wishes to meet with expatriates here on Aruba to explain what CDA could mean for them. According to Erkel, in the past expats would get on a boat and travel to another country to live never to return. Today that is no longer the case. People



today go for a period of years to live abroad. Erkel himself lived abroad for five years on account of his work. He was with the "Doctors Without Borders" group, and lived in places like Uganda, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Russia. He says, "this is why I know what expats often have to face." He is also convinced that Holland can be proud of her expats who are doing a lot of good. It is

important to maintain contact with this group. And, he says, he wants to know how they are faring here, what are their concerns and if CDA can do anything to help them.

Ever since his abduction, he is in demand for giving lectures and other presentations. Erkel has written a book titled, "Ontvoerd" (kidnapped) in which he relates his experience and the impact that this has had on his life. Erkel is the founder of the Foundation "Stop Child Abuse" with a focus primarily on fighting against child prostitution. He is also one of the owners of the "Walking Tree Bureau" which guides companies through change, reorganizations and growth.

His first visit to Aruba was back in 2010, for a very short time. He claims that this time around again he is unable to stay for some time as he must return to Holland for the campaign and upcoming elections there. He is looking forward to a large crowd for his presentation here. His lecture will be this Friday, August 24th at the Dr. Edward Cheung Center for Innovation from 7:00 pm in the evening. Entrance is free. Please contact M. Tonk-Croes for any further information at Tel. 593-4939.

Over 40 local dancers recruited to appear in Kozlov Dance



Adriana Kozlov leads them through the routine

This coming holiday season, Kozlov Dance International will again perform the beloved ballet "The Nutcracker," to Tchaikovsky's immortal score. Leonid Kozlov, famed former star of the Bolshoi and New York Ballet and Broadway is bringing his production to the Cas di Cultura, with a combined cast of international and local dancers.

Mr. Kozlov and his wife Adriana, a prima ballerina, are part time residents of Aruba. The dance team now specializes in inspiring young dancers, and expressed they are very pleased with the response from the local community to the auditions conducted over the past weekend.

Three months of rehearsals at Club di Movimiento in Bubali with dancer/instructor Samantha Westera began immediately. The Kozlovs worked with the chorus to acquaint them with the routines and report they are impressed with the natural talent of the young dancers who qualified, as well as their enthusiasm for

the music and art of the dance. "It is absolutely delightful working with these children," commented Leonid Kozlov. "I am very confident they will give wonderful performances."

Mr. Kozlovs stages "The Nutcracker" annually for appreciative audiences around New York. He began bringing his production to Aruba in 2007, along with major young dance stars as Kiril Kulish, the Tony-winning lead of "Billy Elliott."

This year's performances on Aruba will be at the Cas di Cultura on Saturday and Sunday, December 29 and 30 at 8:00 PM and 4:00 PM, respectively. The show features remarkable costumes and sets created by Russian masters in these arts, for a sumptuous and charming production. Tickets will go on sale at Club di Movimiento, Cas di Cultura immediately, and most likely, Van Dorp stores. Tickets are 35 Aruban florins, or \$20 per person, there is no children's price.

For tickets and information contact Club di Movimiento, 587-3413.

Bon Bini Festival is tonight



The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Bon Bini Festival is the only weekly folkloric event on the island. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature music by the traditional Aruba caha di orgel, folkloric music, dance performance and brass band.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arubus has regular busses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$5.

Come and experience a taste of our 'dushi' Aruba



Aruba YMCA reopens "Tra'i Merdia . . .

Continued from page 3

This is especially for young people between the ages of 12 to 16 years. Conducted in a very wholesome atmosphere, these teens can do homework and later join in the various activities offered at the YMCA.

During the year, the YMCA also provides different seminars for the youth to provide them with different tools that can contribute to their overall development. Everyone is cordially invited to make contact with the YMCA by calling 582-3072 for more information on their various programs. The YMCA is truly working for the Aruban community!



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Government has simplified process . . .

Continued from page 2

The Minister of Social Affairs mentioned that for several years, the number of persons receiving welfare was very small, perhaps because many who were refused the service did not want to follow the route via LAR. As of now, concluded the Minister, those who are really in need of this financial assistance from the government, will now be able to get this.

The Minister also observed that the reason for the increase

in the number of persons on welfare today, is because the government has simplified the process and has made it more humane.

According to the government, our people who need this assistance must qualify for the right to receive welfare. The government is also affording them the opportunity and providing the tools so that their chance for obtaining a job becomes greater.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Obama warns Syria over chemical arms as fighting rages

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama said yesterday that if Syria were to move or use its chemical weapons it would be a "red line" that would change his perspective on how to respond to the conflict.

Obama said he had not ordered US military intervention "at this point," but warned that the United States was "monitoring the situation very carefully, and we have put together a range of contingency plans.

"There would be enormous consequences if we start seeing movement on the chemical weapons front or the use of chemical weapons... That would change my calculations significantly," he told reporters at a White House briefing.

Responding to a question about the Syrian arsenal, Obama said: "I have at this point not ordered military engagement in the situation, but that point that you made about chemical and biological weapons is critical.

"It is not just an issue that concerns Syria, but our close allies in the region, including

Israel. It concerns us. We cannot have a situation where chemical or biological weapons are falling into the hands of the wrong people.

Bashar al-Assad's beleaguered regime is reported to have access to weapons containing nerve gas or germ warfare agents, and Obama said the regime has been warned that any recourse to such arms would be unacceptable.

"And we have communicated in no uncertain terms with every player in the region, that this is a red line for us and that there would be enormous consequences," he said.

"If we start seeing movement on the chemical weapons front or the use of chemical weapons that would change my calculations significantly."

Syria's admission in July that it has chemical weapons and could use them in case of any "external aggression" added a potentially dangerous new dimension to the conflict which the new international peace envoy describes as civil war.



SRINAGAR : Indian policemen stand guard near a burnt out police vehicle after Muslim protesters set it on fire in Srinagar yesterday. As soon as the Eid prayers concluded at Eidgah in the old part of the city, hundreds of youth blocked the road and stopped a police vehicle and asked the policemen to alight from the vehicle before setting it on fire, official sources said. The cops were then beaten by the mob but they managed to escape from the spot. Three policemen, including an assistant sub-inspector, were injured in the incident. (APPHOTO)

US denies 'wild' Assange claims of witch-hunt

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday denied Julian Assange's assertion that Washington was orchestrating a "witch-hunt" for him, saying the WikiLeaks founder was making "wild" claims to deflect attention.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said that the United States had nothing to do with attempts by Britain to extradite Assange, who is holed up in Ecuador's embassy in London and is wanted in Sweden over sexual allegations.

"He is making all kinds of wild assertions about us when in fact his issue with the government of the United Kingdom has to do with whether he's going to face justice in Sweden for something that has nothing to do with WikiLeaks, it has to do with charges of sexual misconduct," Nuland told reporters.

"He is clearly trying to deflect attention away from the real issue, which is whether he's going to face justice in Sweden," she told reporters.

"That case has nothing to do with us. It's a matter between the UK, Sweden and now Ecuador has inserted itself," she said.

Nuland, in an exchange with reporters, later clarified that Assange was not charged in Sweden but was wanted for questioning. Two female WikiLeaks volunteers in Sweden have accused Assange of sex crimes.



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Obama slams 'offensive' remarks, insists: 'Rape is rape'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama yesterday slammed a Republican lawmaker who had questioned whether a "legitimate rape" can lead to pregnancy, and defended his own campaign's stance on abortion law.

"Well, first of all the views expressed were offensive. Rape is rape, and the idea we should be parsing and qualifying and slicing what types of rape we are talking about does not make sense to the American people," he said.

"It certainly does not make sense to me," he added.

On Sunday, Congressman Todd Akin, a representative from Missouri and his party's nominee for the Senate, triggered outrage when he asserted that a woman's body can spontaneously block an unwanted pregnancy.

This claim, which is unsupported by science, has been used in the past by some US

Christian conservatives to justify their opposition to all abortions, even those sought by women who have been raped.

At a press briefing, Obama acknowledged that senior Republicans, including White House challenger Mitt Romney, had distanced themselves from the lawmaker, but said the comment nevertheless underlined policy differences.

"What I think that these comments do underscore is why we should not have a bunch of politicians, a majority of whom are men, making health care decisions on behalf of women," Obama said.

"I think that the underlying notion that we should be making decisions on behalf of women for their health care decisions for qualifying forcible rape versus non-forcible rape are broader issues," he insisted. "That is a significant difference and approach between me and the other party," he said.



People watch as Drumpal Choudhary, 11, a street performer, performs his tricks on a street in Kathmandu, Nepal. Drumpal and his siblings Shivani and Gchan, who came to Kathmandu from India 5 years ago, earn their living by performing tricks on the streets of Kathmandu. According to Drumpal they earn around \$10 a day by performing tricks, which is not enough to feed their 10-member family living together in a small hut without a proper toilet or any basic needs

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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

INTERNATIONAL NEWS**More than 20 dead in Venezuela prison violence**

CARACAS (AFP) - More than 20 people were killed in the latest outbreak of violence in Venezuela's overcrowded prisons as heavily armed gangs fought for control of a prison near Caracas, authorities said yesterday.

Iris Varela, the minister for prison affairs, told state-run media that the clashes erupted Sunday in the Yare I penitentiary, instigated by inmates "who want to maintain control through force."

"There are more than 20 dead and a family member of one of the prisoners also lost their life," she said.

According to reports there

were people injured as well, but the government provided no details.

Local news reports said several hundred family members were visiting inmates at the prison when the violence broke out.

Varela blamed it on a confrontation between two "heavily armed groups" within the prison.

Local news reports said it may have been started by prisoners who had been transferred to Yare I from La Planta, a notoriously violent and overcrowded prison in Caracas that was closed after a violent, weeks-long uprising in May.



QUITO : A group of Ecuadorean natives take part in a demonstration to support WikiLeaks founder Australian Julian Assange asylum request, at the Independence square in Quito on August 20, 2012. Britain yesterday came under pressure after Ecuador's South American neighbours backed Quito's decision to grant Julian Assange asylum, as he remained a virtual prisoner in its London embassy. Foreign ministers of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), meeting in Ecuador's biggest city Guayaquil, expressed "solidarity" with the decision to give asylum to the WikiLeaks founder, whose anti-secrecy website has enraged Washington. (AFP PHOTO)

First lady Michelle Obama hosts kids at lunchtime 'state dinner'

More than 50 children from across the country gathered at the White House yesterday for the first kids' "state dinner," a luncheon hosted by first lady Michelle Obama.

The 54 children ages 8 to 12 are winners of Mrs. Obama's Healthy Lunchtime Challenge, which asked children and their parents to create original, nutritious lunch recipes representing each of the food groups as part of the Healthy Lunchtime Challenge. More than 1,200 children entered.

S.African mine reopens after deadly clashes

MARIKANA, South Africa (AFP) - Platinum giant Lonmin yesterday reopened its South African mine where 44 people have been killed in a wildcat strike, and gave workers another day to come back to the job.

The world's third-largest platinum producer said about 27 percent of the mine's 28,000 employees came to work yesterday, but warned it could fire anyone who does not show up at 7:00 am (0500 GMT) today.

The 11-day illegal strike by about 3,000 rock drill operators had closed production at the Marikana mine, where 34 people were gunned down by last police Thursday after 10 others were killed earlier in clashes between rival unions.

The powerful National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) also urged workers to take up their tools, but urged an extension of the deadline as the miners' families are still identifying bodies and arranging funerals.

But the upstart Association of Mineworkers and Construc-

tion Union (AMCU) -- the driving force behind the wildcat strike -- still sounded defiant, accusing Lonmin and NUM of a conspiracy to rid the mine of its members.

"We are not safe. Our phones have been tapped," AMCU president Joseph Mathunjwa told a crowd at a shantytown near the mine. "They will then together analyse and draw up a list. Any AMCU member will then be fired."

His group launched the strike calling for a tripling of the basic monthly wage of 4,000 rand (\$486, 400 euros).

That led to clashes with the NUM whose membership has eroded since the emergence of AMCU.

But Lonmin said it has not formally received any demands from the strikers and said AMCU has not participated in its talks with workers.

"Our priority is to return to normality. We are in consultations with the unions, NUM, which is the majority union at the mine," top Lonmin mining official Mark Munroe told a press conference.

Yesterday was the first day of a week of national mourning declared by President Jacob Zuma, with nationwide memorials planned for Thursday.

Thousands of workers gathered in a field near the mine, without the machetes and other weapons that had

Some accused Lonmin of insensitivity for expecting them to go back to work while they are still in mourning. Six bodies still have not been identified, according to the government.

"They can fire us if they want, we are not going back to work. Zuma must shut down that mine," one worker said.

Few police were seen on patrol yesterday, though a helicopter sometimes passed in the distance.

A court outside the capital Pretoria yesterday heard charges ranging from murder to public violence against the 259 men arrested after Thursday's crackdown, when police opened fire on hundreds of strikers armed mainly with spears, machetes and clubs.

Health & Living

Terre'Blanche killer 'believes extremist gave him HIV'



(AFP) - The black farmworker convicted of killing Eugene Terre'Blanche believes the white supremacist leader gave him HIV, a psychologist said at his sentencing hearing Monday.

Chris Mahlangu was convicted in May of bludgeoning Terre'Blanche to death in his farmhouse outside the small town of Ventersdorp on April 3, 2010.

During the trial, the court found no proof that Terre'Blanche had raped Mahlangu.

But as his sentencing hearing got under way Monday, clinical psychologist Hein Swanepoel told the court that Mahlangu believes Terre'Blanche raped him and gave him HIV, the virus that could lead to AIDS, according to the Independent Online.

"He alleges he was raped by the deceased three to four times and did not resist because the deceased was a powerful man. He did inform police about the rape and for fraudulent reasons that was not included in the statement," Swanepoel said.

The psychologist was testifying in mitigation, as Mahlangu's defence tried to convince the court to hand down a milder sentence than the possible life in prison.

Judge John Horn had rejected Mahlangu's claims to have acted in self-defence and accepted the prosecution's argument that the killing had been triggered by a fight over wages.

Terre'Blanche, 69 when he was killed, co-founded the far-right Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) which violently opposed South Africa's all-race democracy and campaigned for a self-governing white state.

Their campaign included bomb attacks ahead of the 1994 elections, which ended the white-minority apartheid state. The killing confronted South Africa with memories of its dark apartheid past, but during the long proceedings the trial has largely faded from public debate.

Bolivia's child workers in daily struggle for life



LA PAZ(AFP) - "I have worked as long as I can remember," says Felix Mamani Mayta, a 14-year-old whose life story illustrates an everyday reality for 850,000 children and adolescents in Bolivia.

Felix, who is still in school, began with small jobs in retail and later as a bicycle delivery boy for his family's business, a combination ice cream shop and meat and poultry distributor.

Witty and full of energy, Felix is a board member of the Union of Boys and Girl Workers of Bolivia, an advocacy group that lobbies Congress and municipal councils for legal protections for children.

The group lobbies "so that working girls and boys have a place in society, so that all children and adolescents are taken into account, so that we are listened to as children," he told AFP.

Franz Rios Apaza is 13

years old and sells cigarettes in the streets of El Alto, a city bordering La Paz and one of the poorest in the country.

"I began working when I was seven," he said. He worked as a bus driver's assistant, and shined shoes, and any other work he could find.

"I don't have a father, only a mother, and we are three brothers," he said. "I am in school. I go in at seven in the evening and get out at 10 at night, and from there I go sell cigarettes until two or three in the morning. "I earn 50 bolivianos (about seven dollars) on Fridays and Saturday, when I make more money."

-- 'A problem of poverty' --

Child labor "is a problem of poverty, not only in Bolivia, but in developing countries," said UNICEF's representative in La Paz, Marco Luigi Corsi, adding that there are no easy solutions.

The United Nations Children's Fund estimates that

850,000 children between the ages of five and 17 in Bolivia work and believes that it puts them at physical and psychological risk.

UNICEF, the Bolivian government and non-governmental organizations have identified 23 categories of child labor that all agree are dangerous.

They include work harvesting sugar cane and chestnuts in the lowlands and the Amazon basin, and mining in the Andean highlands.

In a country of 10 million people "there are about 300,000 who are dedicated full time to some form of child labor and between 40 and 60 percent in Bolivia are likely involved in the worst forms of child labor," says UNICEF spokesman Wolfgang Friedl.

Marco de Gaetano, coordinator of an NGO called El Trabajo de Crecer, which operates in Bolivia and Peru, says the goal is to end all forms of exploitation of minors.

Despite this, many child workers in Bolivia, especially those involved in commerce, believe they have been strengthened by their experience.

However there is unanimous agreement that children deserve access to health, education, dignity and to be protected against exploitation and the worst forms of child labor.

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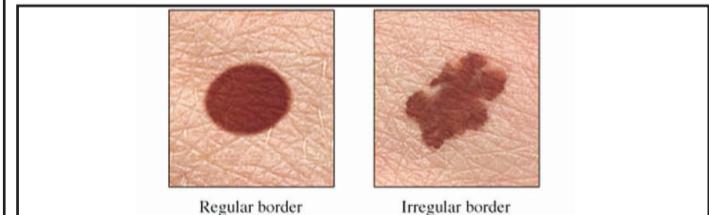
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Health Tip: Risk Factors for Melanoma

Melanoma is an often deadly form of skin cancer. Protecting yourself from sun damage can help protect your skin.

This is a list of common risk factors for melanoma:

- * Having fair skin or skin that is otherwise sensitive to the sun.
- * Having red or blond hair with blue or green eyes.
- * Having more than 50 moles.
- * Having abnormal or irregular moles, often that are typically large.
- * Having a history of using tanning beds or being sun burned frequently.
- * Having a weakened immune system.
- * Having a family history of melanoma or other form of skin cancer.
- * Being 50 or older.



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Sci-Tech**Down's syndrome testing hits several European markets**

BERLIN (AFP) - A new prenatal test for Down's syndrome hit the market in Germany and several other European countries Monday, the manufacturer said, amid a controversy over whether it could lead to more abortions.

The product, marketed as PrenaTest and manufactured by German life sciences company LifeCodexx, "is targeted exclusively toward women in their 12th week of pregnancy and beyond who are at an increased risk" of delivering a child with Down's syndrome, the company said in a statement.

The test which involves

screening pregnant women's blood samples for the presence of foetal Down's syndrome -- also known as trisomy 21 -- had recently come under fire from rights groups concerned about abortions.

In June, the international federation of Down's syndrome organisations objected to such testing at the European Court of Human Rights.

The federation, grouping 30 associations in 16 countries, said the Strasbourg court should "recognise the human condition and protect the right to life of people with Down's syndrome and those handi-

capped".

But last month, Switzerland gave the test the green light with a decision by Swissmedic, the national agency for therapeutic products.

Germany's ombudsman for the disabled, Hubert Huppé, for his part called the test "illegal", fearing a "selection of man by Down's Syndrome", but it did not stop the test from going to market.

Down's syndrome is caused by having an extra copy of chromosome 21 and the risk increases as a woman gets older.

LifeCodexx described their procedure as a "risk-free alternative to common invasive examination methods such as amniocentesis".

Invasive procedures currently used for prenatal diagnosis -- in the 16th week of pregnancy -- pose a one percent risk of foetal loss. The diagnosis is therefore only made available to high risk women, which fails to catch all cases.

Besides Germany and Switzerland, the test is also now available in Austria and Liechtenstein.

S. Korea heatwave kills more than 830,000 poultry

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's extended heatwave

has taken its toll on both humans and animals, with more than 830,000 chickens or other

poultry reported dead as of Wednesday.

The agriculture ministry said 786,512 chickens, 40,780 ducks, 3,000 quail, 336 pigs and five cows have died since July 20, when the peak temperature began hovering above 33 Celsius (91.4 Fahrenheit) in most areas.

The stifling heat also killed seven people in June and July, the health ministry said, mostly elderly people working in fields or greenhouses.

Temperatures have stayed above 35 C for 12 days in much of the country, causing massive blooms of algae in rivers.

Sales of electric fans and air conditioners have soared. On Monday the state power company warned that reserves were dangerously low and urged people to switch off appliances, as usage reached a record.

The meteorological administration says relief is in sight starting Friday, with midday temperatures dropping to the customary August figure of 30C from the weekend.



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PARIS - A couple cool off in the water of the Trocadero's fountains, on week-end in Paris as the city sweltered under a summer heatwave. A level 2 alert on the 1-3 heatwave warning system is issued in 33 departments to ensure the public is aware of the need to ensure the well-being of the elderly, babies and other people particularly vulnerable to unusually high temperatures of this week-end.



SEOUL - Members of Coexistence for Animal Rights confine themselves in a cage as a protest against eating dog meat last week in Seoul, South Korea. Dog meat is a traditional dish in Korea dating back to the Samkuk period (period of the three kingdoms BC 57 - AD 668), and July 15 is the day on which some South Koreans eat dog meat in the belief it will help them endure the heat of the summer months.





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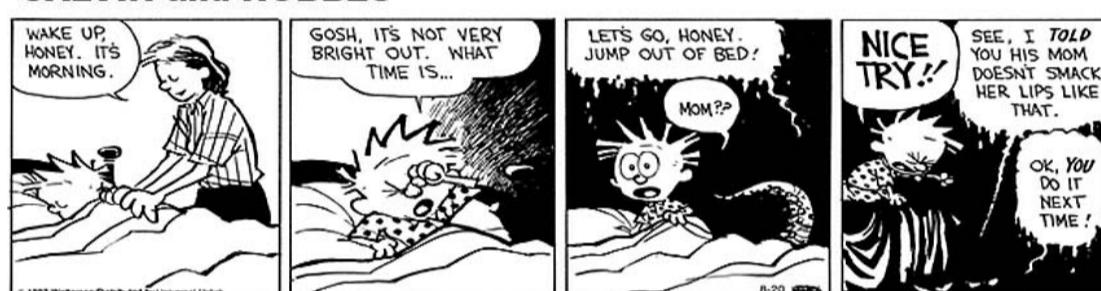
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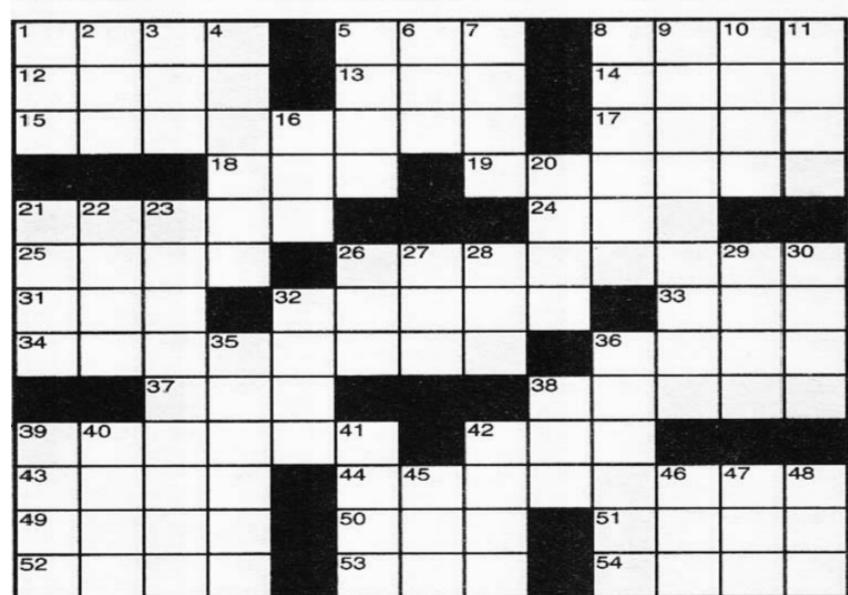
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ACROSS

1. Q-Tip, e.g.
5. Behind, to a sailor
8. "___ Off Place" (1993 film)
12. Burger specification
13. "Alice" star
14. No part
15. Looper
17. Out to lunch
18. Poison ___
19. Threw eggs at
21. Not clearly
24. Address book abbrev.
25. Boric ___
26. Short



narrative

31. La Paz's locale: abbr.
32. Splash
33. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby
34. Gym wear
36. Where Tet is celebrated
37. Like a fox
38. Deft
39. Newest
42. Brouhaha
43. Scent
44. Jim McCarty, e.g.
49. Red coin?
50. Salt spot, for a margarita
51. Author of

"Popular Fallacies"

52. Till bills
53. Jolson and Hirt
54. Poky
DOWN
1. Hindustani title
2. Ashen
3. Rainbow
4. "___ a Pale Horse"
5. Out of control
6. Conifer
7. Pack down
8. Fished
9. Unencumbered

10. Bancroft or Baxter
11. Actress Donna

16. "The ___ We Were"
20. Engrave
21. Applies with light strokes
22. Church image
23. Turning point
26. Pub brew
27. Eur. country
28. Curvy letter
29. Misstep
30. It was: Lat.
32. "The ___ the limit!"
35. Air-raid warnings
36. Southwestern homes
38. Put two and two together
39. "The ___ Motion" (Little Eva)

40. Arabian seaport
41. Supermodel Banks
42. ___ control
45. Feel punk
46. "___ Cry Instead"
47. River, to José
48. European crow

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Telephone 100

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C.V. TAS
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In Oranjestad:
Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604
582-5447
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Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602
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Tel. 588-0035
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Sabana Liber 8 in Noord
Tel: 5673356 / 5838989

Sudoku

8			9	4		5		2
4	3					8		
5						1		4
	6		4	7				5
7		2				9		1
9				5	2		8	
6			2					8
		6					9	7
2		1		8	5			3

SOLUTION

2								
3	8	5	6	1	7	9	1	6
6	7	4	2	9	3	1	5	8
9	4	3	1	5	2	7	8	6
7	5	2	8	3	6	9	4	1
1	6	8	4	7	9	3	2	5
5	2	9	3	6	1	8	7	4
4	3	7	5	2	8	6	1	9
8	1	6	9	4	7	5	3	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



Current as of: 08/20/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.78	1.80	1.82
Britain	GBP	2.73	2.78	2.84
Switzerland	CHF	182.20	182.92	183.72
Netherlands	EUR	217.09	219.07	221.27
Sweden	SEK	25.62	26.34	27.14
Denmark	DKK	28.45	29.17	29.97
Norway	NOK	28.99	29.71	30.51
Japan	JPY	221.93	223.95	226.20
(per 10,000)				

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Berlin douses hopes of quick euro crisis fix

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany yesterday dampened hopes for powerful action from the European Central Bank to fix the euro crisis and slapped down speculation of an immediate breakthrough on debt-wracked Greece.

European markets opened firmer following a report Sunday in respected German newsmagazine Spiegel that the ECB was mulling huge intervention to drive down the borrowing costs of countries hit by the crisis.

Without citing sources, Spiegel said the Frankfurt-based central bank would cap the borrowing costs of individual nations, buying their bonds in the open market to drive down these costs to below the limit set.

The aim would be to control speculation on the likelihood of the eurozone breaking up and help countries like Spain and Italy which have suffered from rapidly spiralling borrowing costs.

But a spokesman for German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble was quick to quash the report.

Martin Kotthaus told a regular government briefing he was not aware of such a plan but that "purely theoretically and speaking in the abstract, such an instrument would of course be very problematic."

The ECB, which very rarely comments on press reports, also reacted swiftly, saying it was "absolutely misleading to report on decisions, which have not yet been taken."

New chief: Central African economic bloc in 'bad shape'

BRAZZAVILLE (AFP) - The incoming head of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEMAC) said yesterday the six-nation bloc's efforts to deepen economic integration in the region were not going well.

"It seems to me it's common knowledge that the integration of the CEMAC zone,

which started off well, is in kind of bad shape compared to other blocs like ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States)," Congolese politician Pierre Moussa told journalists.

Moussa was named CEMAC president at the organisation's 11th heads of state conference last month in Brazzaville. He formally takes office on August 28 for a five-year term, replacing scandal-tainted Cameroonian Antoine Ntsimi.

The CEMAC states are Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Chad, all of which use the CFA franc as their currency.

It was formed in 1994 after a predecessor, the Central Africa Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC), was dissolved.

MONDAY'S Crossword Answer



Finance

CME applies to set up futures exchange in London

CHICAGO (AFP) - CME Group, the world's largest futures market operator, said yesterday it was seeking British regulatory approval to set up a European exchange based in London.

Chicago-based CME, which owns the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade and the New York Mercantile Exchange, said it was applying to Britain's Financial Services Authority to create a London-based market currency futures market in mid-2013.

"We continue to see an increase in business coming

from our diverse set of customers in Europe, with more than 20 percent of our volume now originating from the region," said Terry Duffy, CME Group executive chairman and president, in a statement.

"Having an exchange in London that can leverage the central counterparty model of CME Clearing Europe will allow us to align ourselves even more closely with our regional customers in both listed futures and over-the-counter markets, and provide additional opportunities to our expanding non-US customer base."

CME Group chief execu-

tive Phupinder Gill said the company was looking at expanding the London market's transactions to other types of futures trading.

"Launching with a suite of FX products allows us to leverage our 40 years of experience in FX futures for customers in the region who access the futures market during the London business day, but we also plan to look at expanding into additional asset classes," he said.

Robert Ray, the managing director of products and services, will become CEO of CME Europe, the company said.

Apple is most valuable company ever at \$622 bn

Photo dated June 10, 2012 shows an Apple logo on a building in San Francisco. Apple yesterday de-throned longtime rival Microsoft as the most valuable company in history based on the value of its stock, which climbed to around \$622 billion.

Apple's stock began a steady rise late last week and hit a new high of \$664.75 a share near mid-day Monday on the Nasdaq exchange amid rumors the tech giant is poised to release new versions of iPhone, iPad, and Apple TV devices.



China's currency under pressure as growth slows

BEIJING (AFP) - China's currency is facing strong downward pressure this year as the country's once surging growth rates slow amid a stalling global economy and signs of capital flight after years of inflows.

It is a new development for the yuan, once on a steady upward trajectory on the back of expectations that China's impressive economic strength made the currency a one-way bet.

The economy, though, has slowed for six straight quarters and the 7.6 percent year-on-year expansion in gross domestic product for the three months ended June 30 was the worst since the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. The yuan has dropped just one percent this year, but the fall has



come after years of gains amid foreign pressure by China's trading partners, especially the United States, who claimed it was undervalued.

The China Securities Journal, a state newspaper, carried a front-page commentary this

month saying markets have now accepted that the currency is on a weakening track, calling that a potential boon for the economy.

A weaker yuan could spur positive effects such as boosting exports, it added.

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Latin pop star goes classical with LA Philharmonic



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Colombian megastar Juanes, whose hit "La Camisa Negra" topped charts around the world, tried his hand at classical music for the first time this week at the legendary Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles.

Juanes and his group combined forces for just two nights, Friday and Saturday, with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and the city's youth orchestra for disadvantaged kids.

"I've never played on stage with a symphony orchestra," Juanes, who has sold more than 15 million records and racked up more than a dozen awards over two decades, told AFP before the show.

The playlist features popular songs, along with some more "surprising, alternative choices," Juanes said. They also played songs from his first album that Juanes never sung on stage before.

For the 40-year-old father of three, who has announced plans to slow down the frenetic pace of his career, the concert is also a chance to go back to the city that launched him to stardom.

Juanes moved to Los Angeles in 1998, staying for two years. "It was a very difficult period because I didn't have money or a record deal," he recalled.

But before too long, Juanes met Gustavo Santaolalla, the Argentine musician and producer who first signed him.

"Since then, I always came back to Los Angeles to record most of my albums," Juanes said. The musician said he loves the LA music scene, from the nonstop concerts, to the fantastic pool of studio musicians.

The singer said music was his life raft.

"Art transformed my life in an incredible way," he said. "I

began to play very young, and I was living in Medellin in the 1980s and 1990s, a very difficult era in Colombia."

It was around then that notorious drug lord Pablo Escobar, who once supplied most of the cocaine to the United States, based his operations in Medellin, masterminding a campaign of kidnappings and bombings in Colombia's capital Bogota and other parts of the country.

He was eventually killed by police in 1993.

"I believe that music saved me because I could have taken very different paths," Juanes said.

The experience helped him appreciate the significance of music for the kids in LA's youth orchestra, created by the philharmonic's musical director, Venezuelan maestro Gustavo Dudamel.

"Their story is incredible," Juanes enthused.

The youths "come from challenging economic conditions. They join the program and music changes their life."

According to Juanes, who now lives in Miami, the benefits of the program extend beyond these young musicians.

"This also transforms a community, their families, their friends, their neighborhood," he said.

Singer Scott McKenzie dies at 73



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US singer Scott McKenzie, who sang "San Francisco (Be Sure to Wear Flowers in Your Hair)," the unofficial anthem of the counterculture movement of the 1960s, has died here at the age of 73, his website reported Monday.

"It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Scott McKenzie in LA on the 18th of August, 2012," said a statement posted on the site.

"Scott had been very ill recently and passed away in his home after two weeks in hospital," it added.

According to the site, McKenzie was in and out of hospital since 2010 after

falling ill with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a disease affecting the nervous system.

It is thought he may have had a heart attack in early August, the site added.

"San Francisco" was written by John Phillips, the leader of the 1960s group The Mamas and the Papas, but it was sung by McKenzie.

In 1988, McKenzie also co-wrote with Phillips, Mike Love and Terry Melcher the Beach Boys hit "Kokomo."

Scott spent much of the 1990s touring with the Mamas and Papas. Eventually, with no original members left, the group disbanded.



Beyoncé performs onstage during the filming of the "I Was Here" video at the General Assembly at the United Nations in New York. The video will premiere on August 19th, for World Humanitarian Day and inspire one billion messages for World Humanitarian Day on Sunday.

John Lennon's killer up for parole for seventh time

NEW YORK (AFP) - Mark David Chapman, the disturbed man who shot dead Beatles frontman John Lennon, is up for parole for the seventh time, with a decision expected later this week, prison officials said Sunday.

The hearing is set to begin on today and will last two to three days, New York State prison service spokeswoman Linda Foglia told AFP, adding that she expects a decision "by the end of the week."

Chapman, 57, was sentenced in 1981 to between 20 years and life in prison for Lennon's murder on December

8, 1980, as the legendary singer-songwriter was walking with his wife Yoko Ono to their home by New York's Central Park.

Chapman, who was mentally unstable and just 25 at the time, had staked out the musician's apartment building.

Earlier in the day the musician had even autographed a copy of his latest album "Double Fantasy" for the man who would kill him.

Chapman eventually pleaded guilty to the murder, and is currently being held at the Wende maximum security prison in Alden, New York.

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walleser are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5

for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way—with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, (\$4.49 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous

SPORTS

Lotto's Commission of Sport Subsidies sponsors Gino Hodge in duathlon competition in Venezuela



The Duathlon of Barquisimeto, Venezuela is world known, as each year different athletes from different countries such as US, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Colombia and of course Venezuela compete.

Thanks to Aruba's Lottery, LOTTO, Aruba will also be represented at the Duathlon of Barquisimeto this weekend.

Aruba's representative Gino Hodge is one of the best ath-

letes in running and cycling on the island says his coach Robert Nicolaas. He is the reigning National Duathlon Champion.

Duathlon is a combination of 10 km running, 40 km cycling and concludes with 5 km running. This sport requires a lot of technicality, coordination and stamina. Gino demonstrated at a recent competition in Puerto Rico that he does

possess all these requirements and is in top condition.

"We are expecting a good result at this upcoming competition," says coach Nicolaas.

Lotto recently donated 1 million dollars to the Commission of Sports Subsidies making it possible for the commission to give support to the local sports clubs so they can keep on developing in their sport.



OTTAWA (AFP) - A 14-year-old Canadian became the youngest person to swim across Lake Ontario late Sunday after completing the 52-kilometer (32-mile) crossing in 27 hours. Annaleise Carr entered the waters at Niagara-On-The-Lake and swam north to Toronto's waterfront, where she was greeted by her family and hundreds of supporters, according to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The event raised tens of thousands of dollars for a camp for children with cancer. Carr reportedly visited Camp Trillium last year and was so moved that she asked to volunteer but was told she was too young, so instead she embarked on this fundraising mission. Reports from boats accompanying the teen on her journey described her head bobbing up and down with each stroke in the dark, frigid waters through strong winds and a tumbling surf. Carr was visibly exhausted by the last leg when the waters turned choppy, said the daily Toronto Star. Marilyn Bell was the first person to swim across the lake in 1954, at age 16.



TOKYO (AFP) - Up to 500,000 people lined the streets of Tokyo on Monday to hail Japan's Olympic medalists, organisers said, in a boost for the city's bid to stage the 2020 Games. Athletes who returned from London with a national record medal haul were lauded as they rode on open-top buses through the capital's upmarket shopping district of Ginza. The Japan Olympic Committee (JOC) said about 500,000 people crammed into Ginza to get a glimpse of the country's medal heroes, waving, shouting and taking pictures with their mobile phones. Japan came home from London with seven gold, 14 silver and 17 bronze medals, the country's best-ever showing. Japanese medallists included gymnastic champion Kohei Uchimura, who won the men's all-around title, and women wrestlers Saori Yoshida and Kaori Icho, who won their third straight Olympic golds. The huge turn-out -- police did not issue their own estimate of the size of the crowd -- will be seen as a fillip for the JOC, which has struggled with low public support in its bid to host the 2020 Olympics. Tokyo is up against Madrid and Istanbul for the right to hold the Games.

REMEMBER

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up



driguez (Katusha) after a 155-kilometre ride from the vineyards of Faustino V in Oyon.

In the race's first real work-out for the climbers, Briton Christopher Froome, runner-up in the Tour de France, took third place just ahead of Spaniard Alberto Contador, back from a hotly contested doping ban.

Valverde praised runner-up 'Purito' Rodriguez, saying he could easily have won the stage.

The third stage, which presented riders with four ascents including a category 1 climb to Arrate just ahead of the finish, began with a breakaway group that quickly grew to eight riders.

The early leaders, including Belgian Philippe Gilbert (BMC), managed to put more than four minutes between themselves and the peloton at one point, with the temperature hitting 38 degrees Celsius (100 Fahrenheit) in the mid-afternoon.

Contador made repeated attacks on the lead in the final kilometres but failed to squeeze out Valverde, who snatched the red jersey from compatriot and Movistar teammate Jonathan Castroviejo.

Valverde said he and Castroviejo were satisfied with their performance so far.

Dutchman Pim Ligthart of Team Vacansoleil-DCM won the 'King of the Mountains' polka dot jersey as best climber of the stage.

Golf: Romney praises Augusta National admission of women



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US Presidential challenger Mitt Romney was among those praising Augusta National golf club's long-delayed admission of women members, announced Monday by club chairman Billy Payne.

Payne said the club that hosts the Masters, one of the four major championships in men's golf, had invited former US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice and South Carolina financier Darla Moore to join and both had accepted.

"Congrats to my friend @CondoleezzaRice for joining Augusta National & congrats to Augusta National for admitting its first female members," Romney said in a posting in Twitter.

US PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem also welcomed the news.

"The PGA TOUR commends Augusta National Golf Club on the news that it has invited Condoleezza Rice and Darla Moore to become its first women members," Finchem said in a statement. "At a time when women represent one of the fastest growing segments in both playing and following the game of golf, this sends a positive and inclusive message for our sport."

Augusta National's refusal to admit women members had become an increasingly contentious issue.

The debate intensified when women's rights activist Martha Burk of the National Council of Women's Organizations began publicly urging the club to include women among its members and in 2003 staged a rally across the street from the club during Masters week.

Then-chairman Hootie Johnson insisted that Augusta National might one day admit women, "but not at the point of a bayonet."

Burk said Monday that she believed the pressure that she and others began to apply years ago paved the way for the invitations to Rice and Moore.

While Johnson always argued that as a private club Augusta National had the right to restrict its membership -- the club founded in 1932 didn't admit black members until 1990 -- Burk argued it's role as host of the Masters and as a meeting ground for corporate leaders and politicians should make it answerable to anti-discrimination law.

Superb Ba goal gets Newcastle off to winning start



(AFP) Senegal striker Demba Ba scored a sublime goal to help Newcastle defeat Tottenham 2-1 on the opening weekend of the English Premier League season.

Nigerian Peter Odemwingie was also on target, converting a penalty as West Brom crushed Liverpool 3-0 in their first match under former Reds assistant manager Steve Clarke.

Cameroon-born 16-year-old Fabrice Olinga, meanwhile, became the youngest player to score in La Liga, grabbing the only goal as Malaga clinched a 1-0 victory at promoted Celta Vigo. The Cameroon-born forward came on as a substitute to make his league debut and got the 84th-minute

winner as the new season got under way.

While Robin van Persie's Manchester United debut ended in disappointment as Marouane Fellaini gave Everton a 1-0 win at Goodison Park on Monday.

Van Persie came off the bench for the last 22 minutes as United searched for an equaliser after Belgian midfielder Fellaini headed Everton into a second half lead.

But the Dutch forward, signed from Arsenal for £24 million last week, was unable to make an immediate impact for his new club and Everton held on for a well deserved win in their opening Premier League game of the season.

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MLB Standings									
American League			National League						
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
YANKEES	72	49	.595	--	WASHINGTON	75	46	.620	--
TAMPA	67	54	.554	5.0	ATLANTA	70	51	.579	5.0
BALTIMORE	66	55	.545	6.0	NY METS	57	64	.471	18.0
BOSTON	59	63	.484	13.5	PHILADELPHIA	56	65	.463	19.0
TORONTO	56	65	.463	16.0	MIAMI	55	67	.451	20.5
Central			Central						
CHICAGO	65	55	.542	--	CINCINNATI	74	48	.607	--
DETROIT	64	57	.529	1.5	PITTSBURG	67	54	.554	6.5
KANSAS	54	66	.450	11.0	ST. LOUIS	65	56	.537	8.5
CLEVELAND	54	67	.446	11.5	MILWAUKEE	54	66	.450	19.0
MINNESOTA	50	70	.417	15.0	CHICAGO	47	73	.392	26.0
West			West						
TEXAS	70	50	.583	--	HOUSTON	39	83	.320	35.0
OAKLAND	65	55	.542	5.0	LA DODGERS	67	55	.549	--
LA ANGELES	62	60	.508	9.0	SAN FRANCISCO	66	55	.545	0.5
SEATTLE	58	64	.475	13.0	ARIZONA	62	59	.512	4.5
					SAN DIEGO	53	70	.431	14.5
					COLORADO	46	73	.387	19.5

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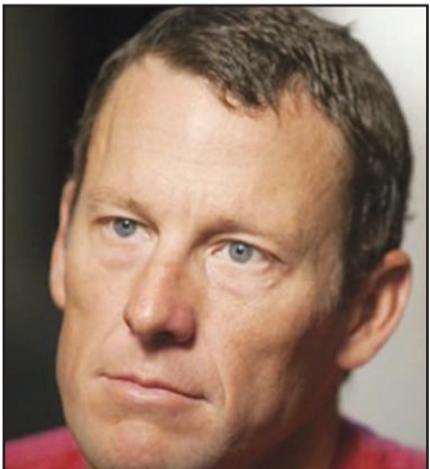
Judge throws out Armstrong suit against USADA

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A federal judge Monday dismissed Lance Armstrong's lawsuit against the US Anti-Doping Agency, opening the way for the agency's drug case against the seven-time Tour de France winner to proceed.

US District Judge Sam Sparks noted "troubling aspects" of USADA's case against Armstrong and a "perplexing" battle between USADA and the International Cycling Union over jurisdiction in the case, but despite his criticism of those bodies he was firm in his view that the US courts were not the place to decide the issue.

Armstrong, who has vehemently denied doping during his cycling career, had argued USADA lacked jurisdiction to pursue a case against him and claimed the agency's arbitration process violated his rights under the US constitution.

Sparks dismissed the lawsuit, filed in Armstrong's hometown of Austin, Texas. Armstrong can appeal to a higher court, move on to arbitration with USADA -- and perhaps eventually to the



Court of Arbitration for Sport -- or accept sanctions from the agency, which has charged Armstrong with doping during the years he won his Tour de France titles from 1999-2005.

Penalties could include a lifetime ban from cycling and the loss of his Tour de France titles.

Sparks found Armstrong's claim that USADA's procedures denied him his constitutional right to due process was "without merit".

Otherwise, the judge said, the matter would be "best resolved through the well-established system of international arbitration, by those with expertise in the field, rather than by the unilateral edict of a single nation's courts."

Golf: Garcia wins Wyndham, books Ryder Cup berth

GREENSBORO (AFP) - Spain's Sergio Garcia won the rain-disrupted Wyndham Championship by two strokes Monday, securing a Ryder Cup berth with his first US PGA Tour title since 2008.

Garcia, one of 38 players returning to the course Monday to complete a final round halted by rain, carded a 66 for an 18-under par total of 262.

It was Garcia's first US title since he won the 2008 Players Championship, and his first title worldwide since his back-to-back victories on the European Tour last October.

"Obviously I won a couple of times last year in Europe, but it's been a while here (in the United States) and it feels great," he said.

Garcia started the week at 11th on the World Points List, with the top 10 on the list earning automatic berths on the European Ryder Cup team to take on the United States in September.

The points for the victory took him to fifth, and with just one more eligible event remaining at Gleneagles he can't be pushed out of the top 10.

European captain Jose Maria Olazabal will also make two captain's picks for the team for the biennial match-play showdown.

Garcia led after the third round and was atop the leaderboard when fourth-round play

was suspended Sunday because of heavy rain.

After a bogey dropped him into a tie for the lead the Spaniard birdied four holes in a five-hole stretch to regain the advantage.

Garcia began his march to the title with a birdie at 13, where he chipped to about a foot and made the putt for birdie.

He birdied 15 from a bunker, sinking a five-foot putt, and birdied the par-three 16th after his tee shot landed two feet from the pin.

His birdie at 17 moved him to 19-under, making a bogey at the last meaningless.

The victory helped erase the memories of his last appearance at Greensboro, when he held a share of the third round lead in 2009 but eventually finished fourth.

"That year, I was pretty much in control and I lost it myself," Garcia said, adding he didn't think the Sedgefield course owed him something. "The course didn't do anything wrong to me."

Clark, a local favorite after attending North Carolina State



University, moved into a tie with Garcia with a birdie at the eighth -- his third hole of the day.

Garcia edged ahead again with a birdie at the 11th, but after a bogey at 12 he was again tied for the lead.

American Chad Campbell briefly joined them atop the leaderboard with a third straight birdie at 17, but Garcia then launched his big run.

American Bud Cauley finished third with a 68 for 265. Campbell's 66 gave him a share of fourth place on 266 alongside Jimmy Walker (67) and Sweden's Carl Pettersen (68).